



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality



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Environmental Notification

DEQ TO USE BRIGHT RED, NON-TOXIC DYE TO SURVEY WATERS OF BAYOU PETITE CAILLOU

(Baton Rouge) - - The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is conducting surveys to gather water quality information to be used in restoring and protecting some of Louisiana's waterbodies. Starting on Tuesday, August 19 and ending on Thursday, August 21, DEQ will be installing electronic monitoring equipment that will be utilized in conjunction with water sampling surveys on Bayou Petite Caillou, beginning at Bayou Terrebonne until the Klondyke Road Bridge. The equipment will be mounted on white PVC poles or buoys. DEQ also is advising that during the surveys, a bright red, non-toxic dye will be injected into the water on Bayou Petite Caillou below St. Louis Canal.

Area residents are being asked not to tamper with the equipment and not to be alarmed with the red coloration of the water, as the waterbody will return to its normal state by the end of the day. The red dye is used to determine flow and distribution patterns of the bayou. These patterns are used to establish sampling points for the survey and to aid in the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).

A TMDL is the maximum amount of a pollutant that can be released into a waterbody without causing it to become impaired and/or violate state water quality standards. TMDLs are used as a basis for establishing wastewater discharge limits. The data gathered from the survey will be used to identify suspected pollutants in the bayou that may cause or contribute to low oxygen levels in the water.

For further information about the TMDL program and the watershed sampling survey, please contact Kirk Manuel with DEQ at (225) 219-3513 or visit the website at www.deq.state.la.us/technology/tmdl.